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Associate Professor Maria Miriti

Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of Revision of the Graduate Program (Masters and PhD) in Anthropology and end of Student Admissions to the Terminal Master’s Program

Dear Maria,

At its meeting on Monday, December 7th, 2020, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel

of the ASC Curriculum Committee unanimously approved a proposal from the Department of Anthropology to revise their graduate program and end student recruitment and admissions to the terminal Master’s program. Our approval had one contingency regarding program assessment that has since been met.

The redesign of Anthropology’s graduate program resulted from several years of analysis and has seven objectives. The revised curriculum focuses on three themes that are current strengths of the Department: *Human Evolutionary History*, *Society and Environment*, and *Biocultural Perspectives on Health*. The new curriculum has more training on research methods through updating seminars and adding a year-long seminar on data collection methods. The program also develops students’ skills for both academic and non-academic career paths by revising seminars in communicating and teaching anthropology, and the program follows NAS graduate STEM recommendations by increasing structures of mentoring and support for students. Finally, the program has been streamlined to shorten students’ time to degree without sacrificing the quality of their training. The revised program will fund all graduate students for at least five years, which will mean that cohorts will be smaller and graduate seminars offered biennially.

The Department will not be recruiting students into a terminal M.A. program. Instead, the revised program will admit qualified students directly to the PhD program; students who choose not to continue to the PhD can earn their M.A. once M.A. program criteria are achieved.

All of the new and revised graduate seminars in this program revision have been approved by the SBS Panel. Overall, the SBS Panel was impressed by the way the revised curriculum capitalizes on the strengths of the Department to offer an excellent graduate program of study. The proposal also has a thoughtful plan for assessing the quality of the program. Thus, the Panel advances the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Regards,

Susan L. Kline

Susan L. Kline, PhD

Associate Professor

Director, Undergraduate Communication Studies

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